

Message Text

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42

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AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2501

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, BC, TZ

SUBJECT: RHODESIA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY. NYERERE AND KHAMA ARRIVAL IN LUSAKA FOR TALKS WITH KAUNDA (LUSAKA 2496) AND SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE MINISTER KRUGER SUGGESTION IT MAY SOON BE POSSIBLE TO WITHDRAW SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE FROM RHODESIA ARE FEATURED STORIES TODAY IN ZAMBIA'S TWO DAILIES WHOSE FRONT PAGES ARE DOMINATED BY OPTIMISTIC REPORTS ON MOVES AND STATEMENTS CONCERNING RHODESIA. NOTING THAT UK IS PLAYING SUBSIDIARY ROLE IN CURRENT ACTIVITIES, PRESS STATES IT IS BLACK AND WHITE GOVERNMENTS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA THEMSELVES WHICH ARE "FORCING THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENTS." END SUMMARY.

2. SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE MINISTER KRUGER IS QUOTED AS SAYING DECEMBER 3: "I NOW EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THIS WAR (IN RHODESIA) CONFIDENTIAL

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WILL SOON END AND THAT OUR MEN WILL SOON BE BROUGHT BACK TO

SOUTH AFRICA. HOWEVER, SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES WILL NEVER LEAVE RHODESIA TO FIGHT THE BATTLE ALONE." ANOTHER STORY FOCUSES ON THE RELEASE OF EX-RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER GARFIELD TODD FROM DETENTION ON HIS SHABANI FARM "TO VISIT A SOUTH AFRICAN SEA RESORT FOR TWO WEEKS." ADDITIONAL FEATURED REPORT IS SABC SPECULATION DECEMBER 3 ON PROSPECTS FOR MEETING OF BLACK AND WHITE SOUTHERN AFRICA LEADERS: "FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE SOUTH AFRICA IS AN AFRICAN STATE AND WE MUST REGARD IT AS SUCH. HARD BARGAINING WILL BE THE KEYNOTE OF THE CONTINUING DIALOGUE BUT A BLACK/WHITE SUMMIT NOW SEEMS ALMOST AS INEVITABLE AS THE ORIGINAL EAST/WEST SUMMIT, CONCEIVABLY WITHIN MR. VORSTER'S SYMBOLIC SIX MONTHS."

3. NEWS COLUMNS REPEAT REPORTS THAT ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALISTS NKOMO, SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA WERE IN LUSAKA LAST MONTH TO MEET WITH KAUNDA, KHAMA, AND NYERERE (LUSAKA 2495). ONE ACCOUNT CARRIES SALISBURY SPECULATION NKOMO AND SITHOLE HAVE AGAIN BEEN RELEASED FROM DETENTION TO RESUME THEIR MEETINGS IN LUSAKA WITH KAUNDA AND HIS FELLOW HEADS OF STATE.

4. LEAD STORY IN GRZ-OWNED DAILY MAIL NOTES SMITH HAS MODIFIED HIS STANCE ON TALKING WITH ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS AND IS NOW PREPARED TO MEET THEM IF THEY RENOUNCE TERRORISM (CAPE TOWN 0839). THE PAPER CONTINUES: "THE CURRENT FLURRY OF COMINGS AND GOINGS SUGGEST THAT EFFORTS ARE MOVING RAPIDLY TOWARD THE CONVENING OF SUCH A CONFERENCE POSSIBLY EARLY NEXT YEAR AND POSSIBLY IN MALAWI."

5. RHODESIA CENTER PARTY LEADER PAT BASHFORD IS QUOTED AS SAYING "NOTHING BUT GOOD" COULD COME OUT OF THE MEETINGS GOING ON IN LUSAKA. RHODEISA NATIONAL PARTY LEADER LEN IDENSOHN, HOWEVER, IS ALLEGED TO HAVE COMMENTED THAT SMITH HAS BEEN GUILTY OF "INCREDIBLE ARROGANCE." ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, IDENSOHN SAID HE WAS CERTAIN A CONSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN SIGNED WHICH WOULD MEAN EQUAL BLACK AND WHITE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT.

6. REFLECTING THE GENERAL SENSE OF OPTIMISM WITH WHICH THE NEWS ABOUT RHODESIA BEING HANDLED, THE DAILY MAIL COMMENTS ON THE RELEASE FROM RESTRICTION OF GARFIELD TODD AS A "WISE MOVE WHICH AUGURS CONFIDENTIAL

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WELL FOR RHODESIA BECAUSE THIS MUST BE FOLLOWED BY SIMILAR MOVES IF IT HAS ANY MEANING AT ALL. IT IS NOW QUITE CLEAR MR. SMITH AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE AT LAST REALIZED THAT IF THERE IS TO BE ANY POLITICAL SOLUTION IN RHODESIA PEOPLE LIKE MR. TODD CANNOT BE KEPT IN RESTRICTION ANY LONGER." THE EDITORIAL THEN TURNS TO THE DIVISIONS AMONG THE BLACK RHODESIANS: UNITY AMONG THEM IS A NECESSITY IF SUCH ACTIONS AS THE RELEASE OF MR. TODD ARE TO HAVE REAL SIGNIFICANCE.

7. MAIL ALSO CARRIES SOMEWHAT MORE SOBER REUTER REPORT ON FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN'S STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT HE "CAUTIOUSLY HOPEFUL" ABOUT RHODESIAN SITUATION WHICH "MORE FLUID THAN FOR SOME TIME." STORY NOTES CALLAGHAN PHONED ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MWAANGA SHORTLY AFTERWARD "FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION."

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8. COMMENT. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR CHONA PHONED ONE OF OUR DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES TO SAY HE SHOULD NOT BELIEVE ALL THAT WAS REPORTED IN TODAY'S PRESS, WHICH WE PRESUME TO BE A REFERENCE TO BLACK/WHITE SUMMIT CONFERENCE AND MALAWI LOCATION FOR MEETINGS BETWEEN SMITH AND NATIONALISTS.
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